

# PROPOSITION 8

Of the Ambassadour

## PECKIUS.

In the Congregation of the  
General States.

WITH THE

ANSWER

Of the sayd General States, the xxv.  
of March, 1621.



TRANSLATED,

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HAGUE.

# A COPIE

## Of the Letters of Credence.

**L**ovinge Freends , vvee send thither Sr.  
Pieter Peckius , Lord Knight of Bouc-  
hout,&c. Counseler of our Counsel of State,  
and Chanceler of Brabant bringher of this , to  
handle with you of certayne cause that hee shall  
declare unto you: And therefore this shal serve to  
require, not onely to give him good audience, but  
also to give him full credit in that hee shall declare  
unto you from our Part. Lovinge Freends vvee  
commende you in the mercifull Protection of the  
Almighty God. In Brussel the 16 of March, 1621.

*Subscribed*

Albert and Isabel,

*Lower.*

Verreycken;

The Superscription,  
*To our Lovinge Freends the General States of the United  
Provinces.*

# PROPOSITION

Of the Ambassadour

# PECKIUS.

In the Congregation of the  
General States.

**N**OBLE & MIGHTY LORDS,  
These latter dayes of the Truce of  
twelve years of the Lowe Countreys/  
our common fatherland/do set before  
our eyes the lamentable mutation  
commonly following after such temporall  
Agreements/ and whereof the preparations on  
both sides are promooved and advaunced al-  
ready. But the Archdukes looking with a  
pittifull eye upon the extreame and most deplo-  
rable Inconveniencies and miseries / wherein  
this Lands thorough / this mutation should  
come to falle / could not choose to bring into  
great consideration the meanes fit / expedient  
and required to the preventing and averting of  
them/ specially beeinge mooved to this health-  
full and salutary sentence / thorough their na-  
turall inclination to Peace/and thorough their  
zeale and affection to the commune wealth /  
which likewise hath beene the cheefest and prin-  
cipal motives/that their Highnesses have resol-

ved to the sayd Truce / as a beginning of the  
whole desired tranquillitie and rest / and of the  
Quenching of the Flame of warre / wherein at  
their cominge they found these Lands / thin-  
king that within the time of the same Truce /  
there actions have clearly and manifestly testi-  
fied and declared the surety of their good inten-  
tion / and for this future time their Highnesses  
have nothing more carefully behatted / then to  
procure the greatest advantage of these Lands  
in Generall / which seemes to consist therein  
that all the Parts and Members of the Low  
Countreys should gather in one body and un-  
der one head / beeing apparent / that as they  
were before the troubles in peaceable union  
and quiet prosperitie / they should yet more use  
and enioye the same if the Provinces of this  
side / would consent to a good / and firme Agree-  
ment with acknowledge of their Natural Prin-  
ces. This is the Point that their Highnesses  
have charged mee to declare unto your High-  
nesses and freendly to present / supposing that  
it was their duety and required office of good  
Princes before all breaches of warre / seeking  
and behatted your owne continuall welfare  
and prosperitie / and that consideration should  
be taken of it / with a fruitfull resolution / by  
which all sheading of blood / exceeding charges  
and other lamentable miseries (whereunto this  
Low Countreys have beene subiect so many  
yeares) once might be avoyded : And if your  
Highnesses would come upon this condition  
to a



to a communication of Agreement / their High-  
nesses shall incline to such reasonable condi-  
tions and capitulations / that the same your  
High Mightinesses shall have full reason of  
good contentment / and see not onely the affec-  
tions of the good will of their Highnesses / but  
eke the equitie and sinceritie / which alwayes  
they have had in sundry recommendation / and  
manifestly declared hitherto by the punctuel  
and religious keeping of all their actions and  
promises / as that same sufficiently may bee tru-  
sted unto them: Assuring your High Mighti-  
nesses likewise of the like good and sincere in-  
tention of the Catholike Maiestie / and that the  
same shall have for good / firme and acceptable /  
what their Highnesses concerning this cause  
shal do and conclude.

And was subscribed

P. PECKIUS.

# A N S V V E R

## Upon the sayd Proposition/ of the sayd High/ Mighty Lords the States of the United Lowe Countreys.

**T**he General States of the United Lowe Countreys having heard and thzoughly examined the Proposition from the Part of the Archdukes/ in the Congregation of their High Mightinesse/ first verbolly done / and thereafter delivered in wzyting by the Lord Petro Beckio Knight of Bouchoute/ Canceled of Brabant / by power of Lettres of Credencie of the sayd Archdukes/ dated in Brussel the 16 of this Moneth. Declare that the Highnesse and Souveraignty of the United Lowe Countries is sure / and without any contraversy by their High Mightinesse/ and by the States of the Respective Provinces/ that they have maintained alwayes religiously the same/ against al those that would bring it in doubt/ or to undertake any thing against the same/ or appropriate it to any other Princes/ and consequently that they never would come to any treatises or agreemēts/ where by the same should have bene brought in any doubt/ where of they have given expres declaration to the Emperour/ Electours and Princes/ and other Potentates/ and likewise to the sayd Archdukes/ that the State of their High Mightinesse is holden Souverain / and their Lands for free Lands acknowledged and accepted by the greatest Monarches/ Kings/ Potentates and Republicques/ who all/ in the same qualitie/ have made with their High. Migh. sundry treatises / and Confederations/ having likewise maintained it so farre/ that their High Mightinesse/ nor with the sayde Archduke / nor with the King of Spaine / would not undertake any Agreement/ before the same had given an acte of Declaration of it/ that they did handle with the same their High Mightinesse/ as with free Lands and Provinces whereupon they had nothing to pzetende : And because that same is as cleare as the Noonedaye / and manifestly knowen to all the world / therefore their High Mightinesse hold very straunge the Proposition of the Lord Chancellor PECKIO, declaringe that the greatest advantage of these Lands should consist therein / that all the Parts and membyes of the Lowe Coun-

Countreys should gather in one body and under one Head/  
and that they would consent to a good and firme Agreement  
with acknow. of thep natural Princes / if the same lands  
upon this condition would come to a communicatio of Agree-  
ment/that thep Hignesses should incline to reasonable con-  
ditions: Because the same Condition could not serbe to pre-  
bentinge and adopydinge of the extreame inconueniences/ whe-  
rein the Lands thorough the warres againe should come to  
falle/whereunto the Proposition seemes to stretche/ but rather  
shall kindle the sper of warre/ because it goes directly against  
the sayd confessed souberaignty and Hignesse of the Lands/  
which thep High Might: hitherto so laudably / and with so  
difficile warres haue maintained/ and further / with the helpe  
of God/ are resolved to maintaine with goods and blood. And  
likewise that the sayde Proposition is replenished with er-  
rours and not tollerable in thep state / drawinge in dispute  
the same souberaignty against the Fundementale Lawes of  
this State. And therefore thep High Might: kan not allowe  
such an iniust/ anlooked / and unnepghourly Proposition nor  
approue the same / as implikinge an intollerable atrocite  
against thep state / and to great dishonour of al Monarches/  
Kings/Potentates/and Republicques/ who haue handled with  
them as with a Souberaine State. But must and necessarily  
declare / that all thep / which by any Propositions or other  
meanes/ presume to drawe into dispute the Souberapne Right  
of these lands / or to impugne the same/ or to appropriate it to  
any other Princes/ or any thinge that favoured of it/ shall bee  
holden and kept as inhabil to bee admitted by thep High.  
Might: to any Treatise. And this they giue the sayde Lord  
Deccio for answer / onely adding / that the sayd Archdukes/  
by the manifold complainctes done into them/ and whereupo  
no satisfaccion is done / knowe sufficiently / how thep High.  
Mightinesse understande that the Treatise of Truce pointly  
and regiliously by them and the Kinge of Spaine should be  
keapt. Actum in the congregation of the sayd General States  
in the Hague the 25. of March. 1621. And was paragraphed.

Henr. ter Coulen, Vidit.

Order foot /

By Ordinance of the Sayd General States.

And was subscribed.

C. Aerssen.